

## THE PRO-SLAVERY REBELLION.

## THE ATTACK ON FORT SUMTER.

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## FROM SOUTH CAROLINA.

## NO QUARTER TO BE GIVEN IF SUMTER IS TAKEN.

## From Our Own Correspondent.

CHARLESTON, Jan. 23, 1861.

For the last twenty-four hours the rumor has been current that the long-expected attack on Fort Sumter would be commenced on Thursday the 20th instant. The belief in the authenticity of the report is very general in military quarters, but as yet I have not seen sufficient to lead me to confide in its correctness. It is entirely certain that Gov. Pickens has for some days been under great pressure on both sides, the greatest from those who demand the attack, and who are to make it, if it is made at all. His resistance thus far has caused him many enemies, and he is severely criticised for his course generally; and more especially for his new policy towards Major Anderson in permitting him to market in Charleston, and allowing him his old mail facilities. It is freely predicted by the complaining ones, that if the Governor is not overruled, and Fort Sumter is not attacked within a short time, matters will rest as they now are till the 4th of March. After that time, it seems to be generally conceded, there will be no dilly-dallying by the Federal authorities. Although Gov. Pickens may, and probably does, incline to moderation, I do not believe he will much longer be able to resist the armed mobocracy of the soldiery, who, in and about the city, muster nearly 4,000 men, all clamorous for active operations, and thirsty for glory at the cannon's mouth.

Concerning the result of the contemplated attack, were I to form my conclusions from what I hear and see all around me, I would undoubtedly say, that in the end, the Fort would be taken without quarter given the garrison. That nothing short of this is suffered to be thought of, by those who are to undertake it, I am entirely certain. Indeed, I hardly hear a dissent from this opinion; the only difference being as to the cost in human life which the enterprise will entail. The Revolutionists have arranged their plan with considerable skill, having been able lately to command from various quarters several experienced officers.

I do not understand that Major Anderson is entirely without concern as to the result of the proposed attack. It is true that he has his garrison strong enough for any emergency; but I am quite certain that the garrison would hail joyfully any reinforcements the Government could send. It would be a wise forethought for the Federal Government to have, if possible, reinforcements near at hand. I take it for granted that Fort Sumter will not be long in silencing the fire of Morris Island, from whose batteries the Star of the West received her shots. In that event it would be practicable to undertake to reach Fort Sumter, if what I hear is true; that is, that notwithstanding the sinking of the vessel in the old ship channel, Capt. Berry entered the harbor by that channel in his last trip from New-York. At no moment after the attack shall have been commenced will reinforcements be undesirable in Fort Sumter, and no doubt at the time of the attack will be the most practicable time for reaching Fort Sumter.

A fierce gale and rain-storm have prevailed for nearly twenty-four hours. The men quartered at the sand batteries are having a hard time, the provisions for their comfort being of the fair weather sort.

## A GENERAL VIEW—THE PALMETTO FLAG.

From Our Special Correspondent.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Jan. 22, 1861.

A little incident happened here last night, which today occupies the nineties here at Charleston, and serves to break up, in some degree, the calm which began to grow insupportable. A small boat, coming from Fort Sumter toward the city, under cover of the darkness, was hailed by a sentinel on Sullivan's Island. No response was returned to the challenge, and the sentinel fired in the direction of the poor little boat, which, following the example of the Star of the West, retreated. The importance of this incident is not great, although it will undoubtedly be exaggerated by the telegraph, and the sentinel who fired in the dark will be temporarily immortalized by the Charlestonians.

As I have already told you, Jeff. Davis is the most popular candidate for the Presidency of the Provisional Government of the South. He is daily expected here, and will have an immense reception.

The prominent topic of conversation to-day is the adjournment of the Legislature, which is to take place probably next Saturday. The planters who have come from the interior of the State to take their seat in Secession Hall, are packing up their trunks, and look a good deal more than a few weeks ago. The shouts of triumph over the separation from the obnoxious Union with the North are gradually dying away, and the stern reality impresses itself upon the mind of many of the planters. The market for their produce, which, but a few months ago, was the focus of shipping from all nations, presents now a desolate and gloomy appearance. In their mind two things are inseparable from the seces-

sion of their property and the welfare of their families: 1. Non-interference with their peculiar system of labor. 2. Free command of the markets of the world. But the more sanguine among them begin to perceive that in their fancied endeavor to secure the first boon, they have positively annihilated the latter advantage, at least for a considerable time. "What is all this strife for?" a few of them begin already to ask, "if not to enhance our property, threatened by the intermeddling of the North with our institutions. But the North, although we have cut ourselves loose from them, cry out against Slavery more fiercely than ever, while our material resources are being crippled by our sacrifices in the contest, and by the stagnation of our trade." Although a few only venture to express these thoughts, they are uppermost in the minds of the planters, and particularly of those who now return from "Secession Hall" to the remote seats of their plantations. While the sense of the intrinsic insecurity of a servile laboring population has lost nothing of its intensity, although the leaves have, so far, displayed an admirable devotion to their masters, there is now added to this more or less predominant feeling of uneasiness the popular conviction of the difficulty of finding the former facilities in the disposal of their produce and in their financial arrangements generally. Cotton and not President rules the world in the opinion of South Carolina, and acting under that painful hallucination, the planters have brought upon their country a series of misfortunes from which they themselves will be eventually the greatest sufferers.

The motto "Cotton is King," is the war cry of the planters and of the royal Court of South Carolina, around which gathers all the family pride, the prowess, the glory, and the hope of the nation. The opposition to the North originates in fears of the planters in having their power undermined by the agitation against Slavery; for it is the labor of the slave which builds up their fortune, and their fortune is threatened to the same extent that the security of that labor is impaired. Hence it would be unjust to fix the blame of the movement against the North upon the poor white population of the South. It originated entirely with the planters, the property-holders, and from these high quarters of wealth and fashion it has enlisted in its ranks all those who depend upon the prosperity of the planters for their livelihood, and merchants, traders, shopkeepers, and the like, and all those who depend upon the political supremacy of the South for their appointment to lucrative offices. These various classes who participate in the movement from self-interest are supported by a large number of people who join it from ignorance, and by those who really join it from an unselfish sense of patriotic exultation. The latter class are the really respectable of them all. They comprise many whole-souled creatures, of volcanic natures, all aglow with the glory of their country, and ready to live for it if they can, or to die for it if they must, without complaining of their fate. It is this class of people which come forward in an emergency like the present, and who inspire even their opponents with a genuine admiration for their honest but mistaken enthusiasm. It is this class of people who urge to deeds of heroism, and who bear the brunt of the battle, while many of the planters are absentees, indulging their pleasure in Paris, Florence, or Rome, and long after those of the planters who are at home have begun to reckon up the financial consequences of the *coup d'etat*, the full-souled though Quixotic Charlestonian patriot continues to defy the cannon's mouth for the supposed honor of his country. Many of the firemen of Charleston (a body remarkable for its gentlemanly and brave element) belong to this class of men. They are the men who in Paris would build up barricades with the rapidity of lightning. Here in Charleston they build up chimeras of heroism, and vent their noble sentiments in a mouthful of their favorite oaths, and afterward play a game of billiards or cards, and take a drink in their fashionable clubhouse, as if nothing had ever occurred to disturb the equanimity of the Palmetto State. This class of men inspire with jolly ardor those individuals who have constitutional proclivities for drilling and military show, and who soon become, on occasions like this, commanders of regiments, &c. The enthusiasm thus made to pervade the atmosphere, acts powerfully upon the mind of youth and upon the imagination of the ladies. Hence the universal rush of the *jeunesse d'ecole* to the national camp, and hence the sympathy of their female relatives, which, of course, rises in proportion to the danger to which their relatives and friends are exposed. In the mean time, while the noble instincts of the full-souled and thoughtless men; of the restless but ardent youths; and of the impressionable female world of the South are used to serve the interests of the planters, the classes who depend upon their welfare, the planters themselves begin to think that enough has been done to vindicate their cause, and if they could, they would be anxious to retreat, but of course as shrewdly as they have advanced.

While a tendency in this direction is fully perceptible, the young men in the forts, and the unselfish patriots generally, begin to be fired by the long procrastination in the attack of the Federal forces, and if another week should pass without a *coup de main*, the enthusiasm of the most ardent would be damped, particularly if the weather should continue disagreeable and make the out-door work on the islands and fortifications a matter of great inconvenience and hardship. At the same time there is considerable misgiving felt about the actual feeling of the people at large in the Seceding States, and although Mr. O'Connor (one of the most eloquent members of the House) made a glowing speech yesterday in commemoration of the secession of Georgia, there are not a few among the far-seeing Charlestonians who look upon the vote of Millidgeville, as well as that of Tallahassee, Montgomery, and Columbus, as rather expressive of the opinion of disappointed Southern politicians than of the deliberate and mature determination of the large body of the people. It begins to be felt that the people of the South and of the North are bound together by ties which no ordinance of Secession can sever, by ties of intermarriage, by ties of kindred and friendship, by a common religion, history, language and literature, and relations thus cemented in so many different directions cannot be, it is said, cut asunder by a handful of politicians assembling in obscure and remote villages.

A matter of considerable astronomical and meteorological interest has sprung up in the rainbow complexion which the discussion in regard

to the new South Carolina flag has assumed. Mr. Weston said it should be white, emblematic of the bloodlessness of the revolution; Mr. Rhett objects to white, and proposes blue. Mr. Coffa did not, like some of the most logorhous members of the House, propose black, but he strenuously opposed white, not only upon military grounds—inasmuch as "it remains still to be seen whether the revolution shall be bloodless—but upon financial grounds. [Hear, hear, from the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means.] Considering the liability of deterioration of the white color and the superior capacity and endurance of the blue, Rhett was evidently in the ascendant, and his proposition that the national flag shall be blue with a white palmetto-tree upright thereon, and a white crescent in the upper corner, had been adopted, when Mr. Yeaton created a division by upsetting the white palmetto and striking for green, upon patriotic grounds, as "an evergreen emblem," to quote the Hon. member's words, "of victory and glory." From the poetical sensations which this green suggestion generally produced, the House was painfully awakened to a sense of reality by the stern and practical remark of Mr. De Saussure, the Chairman of Ways and Means (facetiously called by his fellow-members, "Chancellor of the Exchequer"), who said that "green was an insupportable objection." [Sensation; Mr. Yeaton looks pale.] "It was not a fast color," added the remorseless political economist, "and after exposure became a dirty yellow." Rhett's proposition was then finally adopted: Yellows, 43; Blues, 32. Among those who voted for Rhett's blue flag with white palmetto emblems, was Mr. W. C. Black; and among those who opposed the blue and white was Mr. William Black without the C. Thus there are in Charleston discussions and men of all shades and complexions, and the fun of it is, the palmetto is not at all white, but a kind of a very pale green, too whitish to be called green, and too greenish to be called white.

The Government continues to endeavor to supply the want of munitions of war by commissions to various parts of the country, and even, it is said, to Europe. If the wood of Maine could now be transported to the forts of Charleston, Bangor and the other timber districts of that Eastern State would have a chance of undreamt-of celebrity. Wood is more wanted in the forts than any other material, and coal, too, is scarce and dear.

As I am about closing this letter, the arrival of Judge Robertson from Virginia, on a mission of peace to this Government, is announced as to take place next Thursday, Jan. 24. He will leave Richmond simultaneously with ex-President Tyler's departure on a similar errand of peace to Washington. The venerable Judge is expected to stop here at the Charleston Hotel, the place of residence of Gov. Pickens and his wife. Mrs. Pickens is a Texas lady, of the highest tone, of great charm of person and manners, enhanced by a semi-tropical languor; another brilliant ornament of the new Court is Mrs. Major Ripley, whose first husband was an American Consul in Florence, and whose native social genius has been enlarged by extensive European travel and experience. She is a scion of the Middleton family, one of the most ancient and patrician families of Charleston. The hotels are much less crowded than they were a week ago; the Mills House, the hotel par excellence of planters' families, is particularly quiet, and the Charleston Hotel, the great military and political focus, has also lost much of its bustle.

## POLICY OF JEFF. DAVIS—GOSE OF REBELLION.

From Our Own Correspondent.

CHARLESTON, Jan. 23, 1861.

Henceforth a Southern Confederacy is to be the ruling idea. The action of South Carolina, so far as it can be controlled, will be shaped accordingly. Jefferson Davis, who arrived here this morning, came to enforce this idea, and a modified policy. He was immediately called on by Gov. Pickens, several of his counselors, and a number of the more distinguished actors in the drama of Rebellion. He urged the importance of cultivating a good understanding with Maj. Anderson, and insisted that there ought to be no collision by an attack on Fort Sumter. While the leaders are disposed to agree on such a course, the fire-eaters and the armed mass, who thus far have had their way, are strongly disposed to reject it, and have a fight. With them a fight is the grand idea; without it, Secession would be a failure. To adopt the Jeff. Davis policy, they say, would be to back down; for it would necessitate (to avoid expense) the disbanding of most of the army now in the field, which, with an oath, they declare would be a clean back-out—a reversal of the force of marching up the hill and then marching down again. If the peace policy prevails, it will be at the expense of much of the enthusiasm that has up to this moment prevailed among the masses. The idea of doing nothing rash, and of cooperating with the other Cotton States for the formation of a Southern Confederacy, is a growing one, and, I think, is destined to prevail, unless Fort Pickens, at Pensacola, should be assailed, when the South Carolinians would not consent to wait longer. Their boat is to be first in everything; the slightest circumstance would at any moment give the impetus necessary to produce a collision. The suspicion that a single soldier of marine was on the way from any quarter of the globe to reinforce Fort Sumter, would be quite enough. The lamentations and howlings over the strategy of Maj. Anderson that placed him in possession of Fort Sumter, and out of their power, are scarcely less perceptible than they were ten days ago. They never will cease, I am firmly persuaded. The privilege which is accorded to Maj. Anderson to do his marketing in Charleston causes to be showered on the head of Gov. Pickens, daily and hourly, an untold amount of curses. "Starve them out," is the cry. Not a steak or a potato would they let go down to Fort Sumter could the mass of the community have their way. The only thing that prevents a popular outbreak to cut off the supplies is the idea which is knowingly incited, that there is a great risk of policy at the bottom of the country; and that Gov. Pickens is pursuing a cunning game. But the idea that the Governor is a very cunning man is not widely prevalent.

South Carolina would come into a Confederacy of Cotton and Gulf States more readily than of all the Slaveholding States. She is particularly "down on" Virginia, and would not have anything to do with her. The original fire-eating Secessionists here are growing apprehensive lest the idea of "reconstruction" will ultimately prevail; and hence they are slow to change their position, or do anything that will tend in the least to commit the State to such a policy. Once

out, always out, is the motto. At the bottom of the whole Secession business in South Carolina is the slave-trade, the reopening of which is one of the results prayed for and intended by some of the leaders. The Christianizing of the negro by bringing him from Africa and placing him under the influence of the slave system in South Carolina, is a grand idea with a large proportion of the Secession philanthropists. The fewer States there are in the future Confederacy, the more only the more select will it be, but the more probable will seem the reopening of the slave-trade.

Already are three candidates trotted out for the post of President of the new Confederacy. Of course South Carolina has a candidate; she could, on a pinch, supply all the offices. R. Barnwell Rhett is the gentleman most conspicuously named by those who take an early interest in the matter of office. Yancey and Jeff. Davis are likewise named. For this, or some other reason, Rhett looks a little askance at the Mississippi Senator, who is regarded by calmer people as the gentleman most likely to defeat the Fire-Eater. After all, it is not a little curious that people so patriotic and unselfish as these South Carolina statesmen are—for they are all nothing, if not that—should consent to have their names used in connection with the offices? Everybody knows how extremely reluctant they have always been to accept office.

There is talk of reassembling the Convention in about two weeks, probably with reference to the contemplated cooperation with other States. Another item of expense, say the tax-payers. By the way, speaking of taxes, I see the statement that negroes are to be taxed \$16 per head is having a good run. The statement is only a tenfold magnification; the actual assessment being \$1.60 per head, which is just double the rate of last year. It is well understood, however, that the ensuing tax proposes to cover but a small part of the extraordinary expenses. The leaders were cunning enough to keep the actual cost of the revolution out of sight. The present expense is at the rate of not much short of \$500,000 per month, whereas the entire State tax, for ordinary and extraordinary expenses, will realize less than \$1,200,000. It is not improbable that in the end \$16 per negro will be nearer the actual cost of the revolution than \$1.60.

Every statement in regard to forced loans is persistently denied here, especially the statement of the imposition on Gov. Aiken. If it is not true, Gov. A. will, of course, deny it. If he does not, the people will place confidence in its accuracy.

The Revolutionists have, within a few days past, received a supply of powder, which they stood greatly in need of. It came by the way of Savannah. It would appear that the Revolutionists themselves avoid shipping directly to Charleston. Before this arrived they were in a poor way to carry on operations requiring the use of any considerable amount of powder. They now profess to be all right. More is expected from Virginia in a few days.

There has lately been some talk about raising a regiment of negroes, in order to show to the world, and the North in particular, how much the negroes are feared here. It is asserted that there would be no difficulty in getting a thousand men. That would be enough to lighten the whole negro population of the State after the war was over, and that is the reason why the idea will not be carried out.

I had intended to state that Lieut. McGowan, who commanded the Star of the West was under an entire misapprehension in supposing that the vessel he saw being towed down the harbor was an armed vessel to sink him. There is not an armed vessel in South Carolina waters of any sort. The steamers he saw "in pursuit" were of the class of Huguenot and other Staten Island ferry-boats, having a few soldiers on board, with muskets, as a guard, kept constantly in the harbor. The Star of the West expedition, I will simply remark, was badly managed in more respects than one.

The storm for the last few days has been very severe for the soldiers on duty. Generally they have comfortable quarters, but a portion of them have nothing better than tents. Thus far the service has been severe on the up-country soldiers, who have been put right into the heavy work, and who have no friends near to send them consolation in black bottles and in baskets, with clean napkins pinned over them in a way that speaks Woman more clearly than words. The city companies are often relieved, and return frequently to their homes and friends.

## FROM GEORGIA.

## THE CONVENTION—STEAMERS THREATENED.

From Our Special Correspondent.

MILLEDGEVILLE, Jan. 21, 1861.

The energies of the straight Secessionists were yesterday and last evening directed toward one point—the endeavor to have the ordinance unanimously signed to-day, in spite of the very respectable, not to say formidable, minority against it. Every possible argument, inducement, threat, was employed to induce those who voted against it to sign it, and the result was a comparative success. After the Convention had transacted some business of minor importance, the Hon. E. A. Nisbet offered a preamble and resolution which, it is said—with how much truth I do not know—were drawn up by Alexander H. Stephens and Judge Linton Stephens, the latter of whom had been one of the warmest opponents of immediate secession. The preamble set forth that the want of unanimity in the vote on the passage of the ordinance should be attributed alone to a difference of opinion as to the best means of securing the rights of Georgia, and not any difference of opinion touching the main question of those rights; that there was but one mind among the delegates on the question of sustaining the State, now that she was fairly out; and that it was desirable to have that unanimity clearly manifested. Therefore, said the resolution, we request all those delegates who voted against the ordinance to unite in signing the same.

This resolution was adopted almost unanimously, and proved to be a capital move for the leaders of the majority. The influential names of those to whom its authorship was attributed, and the remarks made in its favor by several leading men of the minority, including the Hon. A. H. Stephens, Judge Stephens, Gov. Johnson, and others, gave an excellent excuse to the small fry to recede from their position—an excuse which they were glad, indeed, to seize, for they had been severely threatened and bullied by Toombs and his whippers-in if they held out. It was interesting to listen to the outside talk last night—all day yesterday, in fact; you know that at every political Convention in this country the

outsiders invariably are attached to the positive and radical side; the conservative non-delegate do not take the trouble to attend upon the Convention. So, here, the fire-eating people are in great force about the town, and among them Toombs finds his most valuable coadjutors. He gave the nod to a chosen few, who in turn passed it to others, and the consequence was a most vigorous public opinion in favor of a unanimous signing, and against the rash man who should stand out. No names were called, but the most unmistakable threats were significantly uttered in case any delegates should act according to their convictions. "They will find out one of these days what treatment traitors get," said one of the fuglemen of the Toombs choir. "Yes, by —, I reckon so," replied the others. You can have no idea of the energy with which Toombs has worked, or of the outrageous nature of the arguments (threats) used to drag out the refractory delegates.

Returning to the Convention, from which I have somehow strayed: When the Nisbet resolution had been adopted, and before all things were in readiness for the signing of the ordinance, a variety of motions were made, meeting with various fates. Mr. Martin, who had on the day before unsuccessfully tried to bring the question of Secession to a direct vote by the people, again introduced a motion to the effect that a popular vote be taken to see if the action of the Convention would be ratified. A short but sharp debate followed this motion, resulting in its rejection; it was very clear, not from their words, of course, but from their actions, that the Toombs and Cobb party are absolutely afraid to go to the people for a direct vote; not that they fear a defeat, but they fear a large minority against Secession.

At midday the Governor, the Judges of the Supreme Court, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House, entered in august procession, and took their places to witness the signing of the ordinance. The operation occupied till 4 o'clock, and became decidedly tedious long before the end. The scene at first was rather impressive; the galleries were crowded to suffocation, yet the deathlike stillness which preceded the earliest signatures was broken only by the scratching of the pens and the rattling of the parchment. But after the novelty had been worn away, the tension relaxed, and there was the usual buzz incident to large gatherings. It was mentioned with a good deal of pride, that the pens used on this occasion were furnished by Southern geese. I may have been wrong, but this did not seem to me a peculiarly happy idea. The observer could extract some amusement from remarking the manner of the various signers—as he dashed down their names with a theatrical air, as if they looked for a round of applause at the conclusion—others doing the deed in a snug, business-like style, and others tremulous with excitement; many signed with lips firmly compressed, evidently powerfully impressed with the importance of their act; and not a few, whose literary efforts had been very limited in extent, squared their elbows, brought their faces near to the sheet, and, with painful motions of the mouth, hobbled along through the signature, bearing away from the table on their fingers as much ink as they shed on the parchment. When the whole ceremony had been concluded, the cannon outside gave the tidings to an expectant world, and the crowd rushed anew to whist.

It is said that all but half a dozen signed the ordinance, and it is not probable that these will long hold out. If they do, they may as well convert their property into gold, and emigrate to some State where freedom of opinion is allowed. This evening, while I write, there is a universal illumination, no end of cheap fireworks and cheaper whisky, and there will shortly be a torchlight procession and a variety of the wildest oratory.

From what I have heard here, I am convinced that the secession of Georgia might have been postponed at least till the 4th of March, had it not been thought necessary to endorse the Governor's action in taking the forts. It must be admitted that the leading traitors have managed their movements in this State with great shrewdness. The seizure of the forts was made alone for the purpose of committing Georgia to Secession. Having been done, the act was made the basis of an argument which has proved successful in whipping in the wavering and steady opponents. The transmission of the New-York resolutions to the Convention was another move in the game, and now Toombs swells with triumph as he sees the State in a position which she would never have voluntarily assumed.

From Savannah, I hear that the Boston steamer Joseph Whitney was chartered by the United States, and ordered from Tortugas to Savannah; that in the latter place it was threatened that she would be burned if she made her appearance; that on the 18th, the steamer Wm. Jenkins, from Boston, came in the offing, and that the guard on the light-house signaled "a suspicious vessel in sight;" that then, when she neared Fort Pulaski, the guns were manned and loaded, one with powder for intimidation, the others with shot for use; that when those on board saw the guns, they pulled down the stars and stripes; and that, on Saturday night, she was burned at her wharf—whether by accident or not is not stated. I give these reports as they reach me from apparently trustworthy sources. It is also said that the agents of the Joseph Whitney have given orders to the pilots not to bring her in.

## FROM VIRGINIA.

From Our Own Correspondent.

RICHMOND, Va., Wednesday, Jan. 23, 1861.

A portion of our Legislature have it in contemplation to take a recess on Saturday next until the 4th of February. The object of this move is to enable members to return to their homes for the purpose of electioneering—that portion, at least, who are working in cliques to secure the election of Secessionists *per se* to the State Convention. I do not believe, however, that the motion will prevail, as the conservative element still holds the balance of power in both branches of the Legislature, and those who shirk the business for which they were convened, will do so on their individual responsibility, and thus show to a watchful people their real motive of action.

With the exception of the passage of bills appropriating \$1,000,000 "for State defense," and "authorizing the issue of treasury notes," and "creating an ordinance department," the deliberations of the General Assembly have been altogether confined to the great political questions of the day, and the best method of adjusting the pending difficulties. This has afforded a wide field

for speculation, and has given the small fry Union-savers and Union-splitters the opportunity, for which their little souls have longed, to ventilate their stagnant ideas, and to submit each his little pet scheme, which he fondly believed, with the faith and pride of posterity, would at once pour oil upon the troubled waters, and elevate its author to the pinnacle of fame. Little county Court-house politicians, sent here by mailed influence, have become emboldened to mount the rostrum, and, being disappointed at not seeing their mighty suggestions and eloquent appeals in the daily journals, they have snubbed reporters, and denounced the press as a humbug. Not a word has yet been said about the ratification of the sale of the James River and Kanawha Canal.

The Alabama Commissioners are yet here, although a resolution reported from the Joint Committee on Federal Affairs was adopted in both Houses on Monday, as a response to their mission, informing Alabama, which was known before, that Virginia had appointed Commissioners to confer, at Washington, with Commissioners from other States; that a State Convention had been called; and, in conclusion, that Virginia was not prepared to give a more definite response to Alabama until the action of said Convention. Of course, the sentiments of Messrs. Hopkins and Gilmer are in consonance with those announced by ex-Secretary Floyd at the "complimentary dinner" given him in this city a few days since, who then and there declared that in the present emergency "he who dallies is a dastard, and he who doubts is damned." It may be a dastardly thing, in the opinion of such men as Floyd, to break down this Union of States; but it is a certain thing that a large number of the good citizens of this Commonwealth do not think so, and that the masses not only daily in the work of destruction, but have a doubt too, and mean to give the Union the benefit of that doubt.

There is not a word of truth in the rumor that an armed force is being organized in Virginia for the purpose of invading the District of Columbia. The idea of any such filibustering expedition has never been seriously entertained by any man for a moment, and, moreover, there is not the slightest unusual activity in our military circles. I have never seen fewer parades, or less military order, in this city at least; and it is because, as a sensible member of the House of Delegates said the other day, we do not believe the people of the Northern States are a set of assassins, robbers, buccaners, or such fools as to leave their business and their firesides, and come down here and kill and plunder a people who have never harmed them—a people who have sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, every degree of consanguinity, living at the North, with whom they are in constant friendly and affectionate communication.

You are already informed of the action of this General Assembly in regard to the resolutions adopted by the Legislature of New-York tending the resources of that State to the President for the purpose of aiding in maintaining the Union, &c. A communication was received from Gov. Letcher, on Monday, in both branches of our General Assembly submitting the Ohio resolutions of a similar character. An effort was made to dispose of the latter in the same way; but it was decided that to return such a communication without comment to the State whence it came was not exactly the way for one sovereign State to respond to the expression of an earnest desire on the part of another State to preserve the Union and heal dissensions between the contending sections. The motion to return "without comment" was therefore lost, and the resolutions and accompanying documents were tabled for future consideration. What the object can be in sending such communications to the Southern States is a matter of doubt here; but whatever it may be—whether sent in a spirit of amity and respect, or defiance and taunt—they can be productive of no good effect. It should not be forgotten that those of the South who are most earnest in their efforts to maintain the Union are jealous of anything that may be construed into a contemptuous or menacing move directed toward the soil which gave them birth; and nothing can be more potent to induce them to make common cause with the Secessionists *per se* than such demonstrations. Few Southerners, however ardently devoted to the Union, are coercionists.

A resolution was submitted in the House of Delegates instructing the Committee for Courts of Justice to report a "Stay bill." The resolution was laid on the table till to-morrow, when it will be taken up for a test vote.

Times continue very dull here. The weather has been very cold and disagreeable for several days, and it is now snowing very fast. Unless there is a speedy change in the condition of things, benevolent societies will find abundant employment in their legitimate vocation.

## FROM MASSACHUSETTS.

From Our Own Correspondent.

BOSTON, January 25, 1861.

Since the breaking up of the John Brown meeting at the Tremont Temple by the mob headed by Richard S. Fay and composed mostly of leading Believeret politicians, there has been a good degree of here. Freedom of speech in its strictest and perhaps most offensive sense has been vindicated in Joy-place Church and the Music Hall. Yesterday, again, the power of the city authorities to protect a meeting of respectable citizens and clear the Tremont Temple of a mob of vulgar and desperate ruffians, has been fully established. The forenoon and afternoon meetings were successfully commenced, carried on and closed, with only the interruption which every meeting is liable to where free admittance is given. But the mob, finding itself powerless against the meeting and the police, assailed the Mayor, and he readily succumbed, ordering the Hall, which had been engaged for evening exercises, to be closed. The particulars have already reached you, and I shall not relate them in detail. But some of the preliminary events may perhaps have been noted in THE TRIBUNE.

The mob of Mr. Everett's friends, when they took possession of the Temple on the 31 of last December, passed the following resolve:

Resolved, That the people of this city have submitted too long to allowing irresponsible persons and political demagogues every description to hold public meetings that disturb the public peace, and in consequence thereof, we have determined that hereafter we will not submit to them.

"We have determined"—that is, the Everett mob have determined. In harmony with this declaration, Mr. Lucius Slade, one of the two Democratic members of our State Senate—the Democratic representative of that portion of Mr. Appleton's constituents who reside in North street and the "Black Sea"—wrote to Dr. L. N.